**Early Life**

Theodore “Teedie” Roosevelt Jr. was born in1858 in New York City. He was born to a wealthy family, successful in the glass industry. The Roosevelts were some of the Dutch who remained when Britain ended Dutch control of Manhattan in 1664.

As a young boy, Theodore Roosevelt spent a lot of time inside, homeschooled *due to his illnesses and asthma*. By his teens, with the encouragement of his father, whom he revered, Theodore *developed a rigorous physical routine* that included weightlifting and boxing. After graduating from Harvard in 1880, he enrolled at Columbia Law School. He later married Alice Hathaway Lee of Massachusetts.

**Political Life**

Roosevelt quit law school and joined the New York State Assembly as a representative from New York City—becoming the youngest to serve in that position. He worked in various public service positions, including captain of the National Guard and minority leader of the New York Assembly. However, the tragic deaths of his mother and his wife, which occurred on the same day (February 14, 1884), propelled Roosevelt to leave for the Dakota Territory for two years. There, he lived as a cowboy and cattle rancher.

Roosevelt returned to political life in 1886, ran for mayor of New York, and lost. Around the same time, he married his second wife, Edith Kermit Carow. Roosevelt soon resumed his political career, first as a civil service commissioner, then as a New York City police commissioner and *Assistant U.S. Navy Secretary* under President William McKinley. From this position, Roosevelt ordered the sinking of the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay in the Philippines during the Spanish American War. Roosevelt soon left that post to organize a volunteer cavalry known as the Rough Riders, which he led in a bold charge up San Juan Hill in the Battle of San Juan Heights in 1898. A war hero, and nominated for the Medal of Honor, Roosevelt was elected governor of New York in 1898.

**United States Presidency**

Roosevelt's *progressive* policies in New York ran him afoul of his own party, so Republican Party bosses plotted to quiet him by naming him on the McKinley ticket in the thankless post of vice president. However, after his re-election in 1901, President McKinley was assassinated. At age 42, Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt became the youngest man to assume the United States presidency.

**Coal strike united mine workers 1902**

Theodore Roosevelt’s presidency is distinguished by his dedication to prosecuting monopolies under the *Sherman Antitrust Act*. Northern securities 1903He later announced the "Square Deal"—a domestic program that embraced *reform of the American workplace*, *government regulation of industry* and *consumer protection*. He wanted to help all classes of people. Roosevelt's charismatic personality and impassioned combination of pounding fists and emphatic rhetoric undoubtedly helped in pushing his agenda.

Engaging his unofficial policy of “Speak softly and carry a big stick,” Roosevelt bulked up the U.S. Navy and created the "Great White Fleet," sending it on a world tour as a testament to U.S. military power. Panama independence 1903

He also helped expedite completion of the Panama Canal by providing *tacit approval* *of the Panama revolution* with funds and a naval blockade preventing Colombian troops from landing in Panama. President Roosevelt was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906 for his role in negotiating the end of the Russo-Japanese War. Roosevelt believed that if Japan had devastated Russia, it would lead to an imbalance of power in the Pacific, one that the United States would eventually have to realign at a disastrous cost. [He was correct.]

Roosevelt's international stance was the impetus for the *Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine*, which claims the right to intervene in cases of wrongdoing by a Latin American or other nation. Critics assert that the doctrine designates the United States as the "policeman" of the western world.

Roosevelt was the first president to entertain an African-American, Booker T. Washington, as a guest at the White House. However, he failed to support black troops in Brownsville, Texas, who had been accused of engaging in a shooting rampage.

In 1906, Roosevelt signed the National Monuments Act, protecting sites such as the Grand Canyon, and preserving countless wildlife sanctuaries, national forests and federal game reserves.

**Travel and Post-Presidency Politics**

Roosevelt's successor as president was his friend, former Secretary of War William Howard Taft. Roosevelt embarked on an African safari. However, after two years of leisure, Roosevelt decided to *make another run for the presidency*. To do so, though, meant launching a third party initiative, as Taft was running on the Republican Party ticket. So Roosevelt formed the Progressive Party, also known as the "Bull Moose Party," and began campaigning for the 1912 election. While delivering a speech on the campaign trail in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Roosevelt was shot in the chest in an assassination attempt. Shockingly, he continued his speech for 90 minutes before seeing a doctor. Roosevelt lost to Woodrow Wilson in the 1912 election.

Source: <http://www.biography.com/people/theodore-roosevelt-9463424>

Please answer these questions.

1. Can you, through your own will, change your destiny?
2. Explain the “Roosevelt contradiction.” In some ways, Roosevelt seemed to be two different people. He acted one way in some circumstances and another in other circumstances. Explain the “two sides” of Teddy Roosevelt.